

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (currently amended) A balloon for preparing for and easing human birth, which balloon is located at least partly inside the vagina of the pregnant woman during application and which is substantially conically shaped in an application region (P) between its outer end (A), which is provided with a fitting (1) for a flexible tube, and its vaginal portion with the largest diameter (D),

~~characterized in that~~wherein

the application region (P) of the balloon adjoins the outer end of the crown region of the balloon in a conical portion, where it extends between an outer portion (a) and an inner portion (i) of the balloon approximately within the middle third of the balloon length, and in that the cone angle (β) in the application region is 25° or smaller.

2. (currently amended) A balloon according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the cone angle (β) is between 5° and 15° when the balloon is inflated.

3. (currently amended) A balloon according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein, in the inflated condition, its diameter (D) in the crown region is about 9 cm and in that its length, measured from the inner end to the outer end of the application region (P), is 10 to 15 cm.

4. (currently amended) A balloon according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein its unpressurized envelope (H1) has a wall thickness that decreases from outside to inside, at least in the application region.

5. (currently amended) A balloon according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein its unpressurized envelope (H2), measured in the pressure condition of equal external and internal pressures, has a conical shape corresponding to the application region (P).

6. (currently amended) A balloon according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein its unpressurized envelope (H3) is pre-stretched in the application region (P), such that the

application region (P) assumes, in the inflated condition of the balloon, a shape that flares as ~~desired~~ from its outer portion (a) to its inner portion (i).

7. (currently amended) A balloon according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that,~~ wherein its unpressurized envelope (H4), measured in the pressure condition of equal external and internal pressures, is constricted in the form of a waist in the application area (P), and in that the wall thickness in the outer portion of the envelope (H4) adjoining the waist (8) is larger than in the application area (P).

8. (currently amended) A balloon according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that,~~ wherein its unpressurized envelope (H1) has a cylindrical shape when the external and internal pressures are equal, and in that the wall thickness of the envelope (H1) decreases from outside to inside.

9. (currently amended) A balloon according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that,~~ further comprising a connecting fitting (1) in the form of a flexible tube ~~is molded onto its outer end (A) and is stiffened by a tubular insert (2).~~

10. (new) A balloon for preparing for and easing human birth, which balloon is located at least partly inside the vagina of the pregnant woman during application and which is substantially conically shaped in an application region between its outer end and its vaginal portion with the largest diameter,

wherein the application region of the balloon adjoins the outer end of the crown region of the balloon in a conical portion, where it extends between an outer portion and an inner portion of the balloon approximately within the middle third of the balloon length, and in that the cone angle in the application region is 25° or smaller, and

wherein, in the inflated condition, its largest diameter in the crown region is about 9 cm and in that its length, measured from the inner end to the outer end of the application region, is 10 to 15 cm.